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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

In connection with the stated meeting of the executive council on October 11, an open session was held in the auditorium, at which papers were read on "The Early Norwegian Press in America," by Theodore C. Blegen, assistant professor of history in Hamline University, and on "Charlie Reynolds and the Custer Campaign," by Olin D. Wheeler, of the society's council.

An illustrated lecture on "The Past and Present of South Africa," by Mr. C. Graham Botha, chief archivist for the Union of South Africa, was given under the auspices of the society in its auditorium on the evening of July 21. The lecture was open to the public, and, in spite of very short notice, the room was filled to overflowing by an appreciative audience. The museum was open for an hour before the lecture and several hundred people took advantage of the opportunity to see the exhibits. Mr. Botha had been sent by his government on an extended tour of the United States, Canada, and the principal European countries to study methods of organizing and administering archives. It would appear that considerably more attention is given to archives in South Africa than in the United States, where the importance of making any special provision for the care of public records has not yet, as a rule, been recognized.

Nine new members, all active, were enrolled during July, August, and September: Louis J. Ahlstrom, Theodore W. Anderson, Mrs. Willoughby M. Babcock, Gertrude A. Jacobsen, Anna M. Ostgaard, Rudolph J. Schultz, and Carl E. Van Cleve of Minneapolis; Julius A. Schmahl of St. Paul; and Augustus H. Shearer of Buffalo, New York. Two former members were reinstated during the quarter. The society lost by death during the same period two active members, David C. Shepard of St. Paul, August 7, and Frank G. O'Brien of Minneapolis, August 16.

The position of head cataloguer on the society's staff, which had been vacant since May, was finally filled by the appointment

of Miss Wilhelmina E. Carothers, formerly head cataloguer of the Library Association of Portland, Oregon, who took up the work on September 1. Miss Mary B. Kimball resigned her position as accessions assistant, to take effect July 31, and was succeeded by Miss Carolyn A. Johnson of St. Paul. Miss Kimball has taken the position of librarian of the public schools of South St. Paul.

Among investigators from outside the state who made extensive use of the society's collections during the summer was Mr. Hermann Hagedorn, author of a *Boy's Life of Theodore Roosevelt*, and secretary of the Roosevelt Memorial Association. Mr. Hagedorn was searching for material for a book on Colonel Roosevelt's career as a ranchman in Dakota and reported that he "was able to secure some very valuable data" on the subject in the society's library. Members and friends of the society will be interested in the following extracts from a letter received from Mr. Hagedorn.

"You have an extraordinarily fine plant, and if you are able to secure the necessary financial assistance, which legislatures in other states have unfortunately occasionally been too short-sighted to give until it was too late, you should be able to do work of such immense value that it cannot be computed in terms of dollars and cents. We Americans are so young as a nation that we have barely come to recognize that we have a past whose records are scant and whose great landmarks have in part already been overwhelmed by the swift waters of time. The story of the exploration and settlement of the Northwest is one of the most romantic stories in history. It has never yet been half told. There is no historian and no novelist among us to-day great enough perhaps to tell it. But some day in the course of this century or the next that historian or that novelist will arise and delve avidly among your treasures for those details of speech and dress and custom that seem so unimportant, yet, in the hands of a man of imagination and purpose, serve to give the glow of life to the picture he is painting. It is the part of organizations like the Minnesota Historical Society to see that the great historian when he comes will not search for his essential facts in vain.

"I have been stirred in traveling through the Northwest to see the wealth of valuable historical material on all sides merely waiting to be gathered from the lips of men and women still surviving from the pioneer days; and yet saddened at the same time to think how much of the gorgeous, irrecoverable stuff was going to waste, slipping every week, every month, every year into oblivion as this man here and that woman there sinks into that silence from which no voice is raised to tell of golden deeds. Is there no way for you to send out harvesters of reminiscences?"

The resources of the society's library were also drawn upon quite extensively by Dr. William O. Scroggs of the editorial staff of the *New York Evening Post* in connection with a study of the Nonpartisan League. The results of this study were set forth in a series of articles in the *Post*.

Favorable reviews of volume 17 of the society's *Collections*—Dr. Upham's *Minnesota Geographic Names*—have been noted in the following magazines and papers: the *Minneapolis Journal*, June 4; the *Minneapolis Sontag Tidende*, July 4; the *Minneapolis Tribune*, June 6; the *Nonpartisan Leader*, July 5; the *St. Paul Daily News*, August 8; the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for July; and the *Western Magazine* for September. It is also noted briefly in the *Nation* for August 7. From it is derived most of the historical information in a guide to the Jefferson Highway in Minnesota recently published in pamphlet form by the Ten Thousand Lakes of Minnesota Association.

ACCESSIONS

A notable addition to the collections of state archives in the custody of the society was received in August from the office of the secretary of state. All the legislative bills and the original journals of the legislature from 1849 to 1880, together with a number of miscellaneous papers of the same period, were transferred to the Historical Building. These important state documents, which had been stored in sub-basement vaults of the Capitol, are now accessible to students of history and others who may be interested in consulting them. Among the miscellaneous papers, which had been reposing for years in an old gunny sack,

were found the original certified returns of the first census of the Territory of Minnesota, taken in 1849. Despite this summary treatment the papers were in good condition, save for innumerable wrinkles, and they have served to correct a number of errors in the census as printed in the appendix to the *Council Journal* of 1849.

A voluminous addition to the archives of the surveyors-general of logs, comprising the records of the fifth district, of which the office was located at Duluth, was also received during the summer. (See *ante*, p. 142). They consist almost entirely of tally books kept by the scalers, though there are a few log ledgers and journals, a short file of books of liens, and other record books. The period covered is approximately the thirty years from 1883 to 1913. The practical importance of the preservation of such apparently obsolete records as these was well illustrated recently when two attorneys representing opposing sides in a lawsuit involving thousands of dollars, together with a court reporter, spent three days in the basement of the unfinished stack room of the Historical Building gathering evidence from the archives of the surveyors-general of logs for the second district. This material had been stored here because of lack of room for it in the finished parts of the building.

The papers of the Reverend Moses N. Adams, missionary, pastor, Indian agent, army chaplain, and missionary again, have been presented by his son-in-law, Mr. Newton R. Frost, of St. Paul. Adams came to Minnesota in 1848 to serve as a member of the Dakota Mission at Lac qui Parle. Later he was appointed state agent of the American Bible Society and traveled constantly through wild and unopened country under all sorts of conditions and in all seasons of the year. During the eight years of President Grant's administration, he served as agent to the Sisseton Sioux in South Dakota, after which he was commissioned as an army chaplain and was stationed at various western posts. Upon reaching the age of retirement, he returned to the missionary field and was made superintendent of the Good Will Mission at the Sisseton Agency. In 1892 he resigned because of failing health and removed to St. Paul, where he completed his

cycle of three score years and ten in 1902. Most of the papers relate to the Indian agency; and the records of reports, returns of supplies, contracts, bonds, and vouchers seem to be very complete. Especially interesting are several rolls of minutes of councils held with the Indians at various times. A noteworthy item which illustrates the labors of the early missionaries is a manuscript copy of the Dakota Lexicon.

A large and very valuable collection of the papers of the late Captain Henry A. Castle have been presented by his daughters, the Misses Helen and Mary Castle of St. Paul. Captain Castle served with Illinois regiments in the Civil War. He came to Minnesota in 1866, was a member of the state legislature in 1873, adjutant general in 1875-76, editor of the *St. Paul Dispatch* from 1876 to 1885, state oil inspector from 1883 to 1886, postmaster of St. Paul from 1892 to 1896, and auditor of the United States post-office department from 1897 to 1903. He was also the author of two historical works, *Minnesota, Its Story and Biography* and a *History of St. Paul and Vicinity*. The papers are voluminous and varied, consisting of some fifty letter files of correspondence, ten letter-press books, about thirty scrap-books, and a large collection of newspaper clippings on various subjects, principally, however, relating to post-office matters. There is also a group of letters written by Captain Castle's son, Colonel Charles W. Castle of Leavenworth, Kansas, while a cadet at West Point and while serving in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War. In addition to the manuscript material, several files of early Minnesota newspapers and a collection of 111 books and 652 pamphlets, including a number of rare railroad and Minnesota items, were received from the same source.

Another large contribution to the society's collections has been received from the family of the late General William G. Le Duc of Hastings. Among the manuscript papers of the general included in the collection are a considerable group on agricultural subjects, accumulated while he held the office of United States commissioner of agriculture; a volume of quartermaster's circulars and general orders, dating from 1861 to 1863; a record

book of the Hastings, Minnesota, and Red River Railroad Company, 1862-66; and account books of his stationery store in St. Paul, 1852, of the Hastings Ferry Company, 1856-57, of the Vermillion Mills at Hastings, 1855-60, and of a general store in Hastings, 1863. The printed material, consisting of about two thousand books and pamphlets and long runs of many important periodicals covering half a century, will be very valuable in filling in gaps in the society's library. The museum is enriched by the deposit of numerous additional objects. Old Staffordshire china, Bohemian and cut glass wine sets, and fine dresses, silk shawls, and lace mantillas help to reproduce the social life of the past; a flail, a cradle for cutting grain, a corn-planter, and other implements illustrate pioneer agricultural operations; and a "Betty" lamp, a candle lantern, a bootjack, a dinner horn, a copper teakettle, iron cooking pots, a child's cradle, and, last but not least, a "little brown jug" recall the conditions of domestic life in pioneer days.

A little worn leather notebook containing daily entries made by Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer's favorite scout, Charles Reynolds, during Custer's last campaign, has been presented recently by Mr. Olin D. Wheeler. The little book was given to Mr. Wheeler some twenty years ago by the custodian of old Fort Abraham Lincoln, Walter C. Gooding, who some twenty years earlier—on May 14, 1876, to be exact—had given it to Reynolds as the Yellowstone expedition was preparing to leave that post, with the request that "he make a few notes in the book, of the sights and scenes he saw." This Reynolds did faithfully from May 17, the day the troops left the fort, until June 22, when they struck the trail of the Indians they were pursuing. At this point his entries end, probably because the heavy marches of the next two days and the excitement due to the proximity of the Indians left no time or inclination for writing. Reynolds was killed on the twenty-fifth, but the journal of the return expedition was taken up July 1 by Sergeant Alexander Brown, who recorded the daily movements of the troops until September 10, when they arrived at Wolf Point on the Missouri River, whence they were ordered to return to Fort Abraham Lincoln. A written statement containing additional information on this expedition,

given by word of mouth by Francis Kennedy of St. Paul, a participant, to Mr. Wheeler about 1900, has been presented with the journal.

Incidents and events in the history of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War are vividly recalled by the diaries and papers of Samuel Bloomer, which have recently been presented to the society by his widow. Mr. Bloomer, who was a Stillwater boy, enlisted in Company B of the First Minnesota, April 29, 1861, was wounded in the battles of Bull Run and Antietam, and was discharged December 6, 1862. From 1863 to 1865 he was a member of the invalid corps, stationed at Evansville, Indiana, and other places, and had charge of quartermaster's stores. His diaries follow the history of the First Minnesota from May, 1861, until September, 1862, and a series of letters from his cousin, Adam Marty, of the same company, continue the narrative of events concerning that regiment to March, 1864. Of special value is a roll of the members of the company, dated June, 1861, and corrected to March, 1863. A number of letters from relatives and friends in Stillwater and Fort Snelling chronicle events at home and at the fort during the war. Noteworthy among these are several referring to the Sioux Massacre of 1862, one describing methods of punishing soldiers at Fort Snelling, and another decrying the high wages and soaring prices of the winter of 1864. A collection of quartermaster's returns and other reports illustrate the work done by Lieutenant Bloomer with the invalid corps.

Some papers of Jerome Big Eagle, a chief of the Mdewakanton Sioux, have been presented by his nephew through the courtesy of Judge Charles F. Hall of Granite Falls. Jerome Big Eagle or Wamditanka (Great War Eagle), who died at Granite Falls, January 5, 1916, was a son of Chief Gray Iron and a grandson of Chief Black Dog. He was born in 1827 near Mendota and upon the death of his father became chief of the band. He visited Washington in 1858 and signed the treaty negotiated with the Sioux on that occasion. He was involved in the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 but claimed to have taken no part in the massacre. Nevertheless, he was confined in prison at

Davenport, Iowa, until 1864. Among the papers is a statement given by Major Lawrence Taliaferro to "Wah ma de tunk ah Chief of the River St Peters" (Black Dog) on June 24, 1833, just as he and his band were starting for a hunt on the Des Moines River. The statement bears testimony to the peaceful intent of these Indians and their determination no longer to fight with the Sauk and Foxes. Several of the other papers are statements of a similar nature issued to "Mah zah hoh tah" (Gray Iron) by Major Taliaferro and Henry H. Sibley. A souvenir of the Washington visit is a recommendation of conduct and character given to "Wamindeetonkee" (Jerome Big Eagle) by Charles E. Mix, commissioner of Indian affairs. The papers all bear testimony to the good character and high standing which Jerome Big Eagle and his ancestors maintained with the United States officials and other men of prominence.

To Mr. Orrin F. Smith of Winona the society is indebted for copies of extracts from the "Notes of an Old Settler" by Elder Ely, which were published in the *Winona Daily Republican* for 1867. Elder Ely was one of the early settlers of Winona and served as the first postmaster of that city, when the post office was nothing but the elder's hat, from which he distributed the mail. Mr. Smith has also presented a letter of Henry H. Sibley, delegate to Congress, regarding the appointment of Abner S. Goddard as postmaster of the Winona office in 1852.

A letter written by Silas Doud at Red Wing in October, 1857, which recounts the financial difficulties of the late territorial days, when money could be loaned at four or five per cent per month, but with doubtful security, has been presented by Mr. Charles C. Thach, Jr., of Baltimore, through the courtesy of Professor William Anderson of the University of Minnesota.

The future student of the labor situation of the present day will be much interested in the copies of a report and other papers concerning the labor disturbances in northern Minnesota in December, 1919, recently presented by the author of the report, Mr. Hiram D. Frankel of St. Paul. Mr. Frankel accompanied the Minnesota National Guard to International Falls on

December 12, as General Rhinow's adjutant; hence his report is written from first-hand knowledge of the events.

Mr. Arthur Graves Douglass of Minneapolis has presented a manuscript genealogy of the Arthur and Graves families and the commission of his father, Ebenezer Douglass, as Indian agent. The commission bears the signature of President Grant.

A carbon copy of a thesis on "The Development of Flour Milling in Minneapolis," by Charles B. Kuhlmann, the original of which was submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of master of arts at the University of Minnesota in June, 1920, has been presented by the author. It consists of 258 typewritten pages with a number of maps and charts. In the preparation of this work Mr. Kuhlman made extensive use of the Hale Papers—correspondence of Major William D. Hale—in the manuscript collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Honorable Asher Howard of Minneapolis has presented to the society a collection of original letters, photographic reproductions of letters, newspapers, magazines, books, and pamphlets which formed the basis of a recent campaign publication relating to the Nonpartisan League. In accord with its policy of accumulating all available material on all sides of current issues, for the use of the impartial historian of the future, the society has accepted this addition to its already extensive collection of material relating to the league.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Samuel T. Painter of St. Paul, the society has recently received three very interesting scrap-books on river transportation, compiled by his brother, the late Frank M. Painter, who was a steamboat clerk on the Mississippi and Red Rivers from 1870 to 1876. The books are made up largely of newspaper clippings of the articles by George B. Merrick published in the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa; but they contain also a series of sketches contributed by Mr. Painter himself to the *Sunday Courier News* of Fargo, North Dakota, and miscellaneous clippings relating events of the early steamboat days. A few pictures of old-time steamboats,

hotels, and bridges along the rivers have been included, as well as a number of steamboat and railroad tickets, checks, passes, and bills of lading.

A typewritten copy of the program for the Fort Snelling centennial celebration (see *post*, p. 534) has been received from Mr. George H. Hazzard; and the following manuscripts of addresses delivered at the gatherings have been presented by the authors: "Colonel Leavenworth and His Command," by Lucy Leavenworth Wilder Morris; "Reminiscences," by Levi Longfellow; "Time and Change," by Frank Eddy; and "Harriet E. Bishop, Founder of Baptist Work in Minnesota," by Mary E. Randall.

Mrs. Andrew R. McGill of St. Paul has presented a large collection of books, pamphlets, and magazine files, together with some valuable manuscript material and museum objects. The manuscripts consist of papers and records accumulated by her husband, the late Governor McGill, from 1874 to 1886 and relate largely to his work as state insurance commissioner during those years. The museum material includes the full-dress uniform worn by Mrs. McGill's son, Captain Charles H. McGill, in the Minnesota National Guard about the time of the Spanish-American War—a valuable addition to the society's collection of American military uniforms.

A file of the *Minneapolis Times* for the years from 1892 to 1904, consisting of 110 bound volumes, has been presented by the publishers of the *Minneapolis Tribune*. The file is duplicated in the society's collection, but it can be exchanged advantageously with some other library.

A Sioux war club and a beaded buckskin gun case are gifts of Dr. James C. Ferguson of St. Paul, who has presented many other Indian specimens to the museum during the past year.

Two guns which saw service in the defence of New Ulm during the Sioux Outbreak have been received through the courtesy of Mr. Arthur T. Adams of Minneapolis. One of them, presented by Mr. Julius Krause of New Ulm, was used by Captain Louis Buggaert in the battle; the other, a gift of Mr. William

Skinner of New Ulm, is a heavy gun of a special make designed for buffalo hunting and has two barrels, of which one is rifled and the other, of somewhat larger caliber, has a smooth bore.

From Mr. Max Diestel of Le Sueur the society has received a heavy breech-loading Sharp's carbine of the model of 1848, a gun wrench of the type issued to soldiers in the Civil War, an interesting old pepperbox pistol of heavy caliber, a brass flatiron bearing the date 1846 and arranged to contain hot coals, two heavy ax heads of unusual form, and several other interesting specimens for the museum.

Mr. Frederick R. Volk of Eagle Lake has presented a heavy stone ax and several arrowheads which were found on his farm near Lake Washington in Blue Earth County.

Mrs. James J. Hill has presented a number of Confederate notes and bonds of various issues, some of which had been presented to Mr. Hill by Henry M. Rice. These are interesting additions to the society's numismatic collection.

A unique addition to the World War collection of the museum is a large Red Cross quilt, the work of Mrs. Mary Parker, which contains the names and service stars of the men from the Frazee district who served in the war. The quilt was presented to the society by Mrs. Samuel S. Jones in the name of the Frazee chapter of the Red Cross.

Mr. Alonzo F. Carlyle of St. Paul, who brought back many World War relics and placed some of them in the care of the society, has recently deposited an elaborately camouflaged American steel helmet. It is interesting to compare the protective coloring used on this specimen with that painted on a captured German steel helmet in the museum.

A large oil portrait of General James H. Baker, painted by Theodore Kaufmann in 1875, is the gift of Mrs. Baker of Mankato. General Baker was for many years a member of the council of the society and was the author of the *Lives of the Governors*, published in 1908 as volume 13 of the society's *Collections*.

From Mr. Andrew A. Veblen, formerly of Minneapolis but now living in California, the society has received an interesting wooden drinking bowl, bearing the date 1839, which came from West Slidre Parish, Valdres, Norway.

To Judge and Mrs. John W. Willis of St. Paul, the society is indebted for a beautiful old punch bowl of Meissen ware, which was made in the royal potteries of Dresden, Saxony, over two hundred years ago. A number of other interesting specimens for the museum have been received from them, including a handsome pair of brass-mounted percussion cap duelling pistols presented in the name of Mr. Francis Fitzgerald.

Miss Abby A. Fuller of St. Paul has presented a sketch of the Sibley House at Mendota, painted by Mrs. John M. Armstrong, interesting old photographs of Hole-in-the-Day and Little Crow, and several other articles of value for the museum collections.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin P. Capen of Minneapolis have presented to the museum a small but finely decorated Mexican water jug and several other pieces of pottery.